

STATEMENT OF THE VIRGINIA PEST MANAGEMENT ASSOCIATION
To the
HOUSING AND CONSUMER PROTECTION COMMITTEE
Of the
VIRGINIA HOUSE OF DELEGATES COMMITTEE ON GENERAL LAWS
Regarding
HOUSE BILL NO. 922

The Virginia Pest Management Association (VPMA) appreciates the opportunity to comment on House Bill 922, relating to common interest communities; pesticides; prohibition on use. More than 300 pest management professionals (PMPs) from across the Commonwealth are members of the VPMA, as are the manufacturers and distributors of the products used by PMPs to protect the public health and welfare of Virginians from the diseases, the property damage, and the nuisances of many kinds of pestilence.

The VPMA is strongly opposed to HB922 because it usurps the very robust process of approving, or not, the use of pesticides by the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) in partnership with the Virginia Dept. of Agriculture and Consumer Services (VDACS), pursuant to federal and state statutes including, but not limited to, the Federal Insecticide, Fungicide, and Rodenticide Act, and the Virginia Pesticide Control Act. *Delegating any form of approval on the use of pesticides to a lower level of government or, even worse, to a non-governmental entity, most of which do not have the highly technical scientific knowledge that is required to understand how pesticides function, and their impact on the environment, is extremely bad public policy, particularly when such products are an essential key to the protection of the public from diseases such as Lyme's Disease, West Nile Virus, Zika, and many, many others.*

Homeowner's associations and other common interest bodies already have, under existing statute, the ability to determine what pesticides, if any, may be used on common properties of their communities. They do so by simply being a consumer, or not, of pest management services and the products used therein. The need to create bad public policy for no effective gain to the intended beneficiary of this legislation, is well overridden by the very positive influence of existing law to the protection of both human health and the environment. It can be argued in fact, that exposing homeowner's associations to the additional liability from banning any pesticide, if such action were to be authorized, would make bad public policy even worse for the community.

Thank you again for the opportunity to present the views of the VPMA on this important issue. We urge the Committee to NOT forward HB922 for further consideration.

January 25, 2024